

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims

As a result of the present amendment, claims 1-9, 14 and 15 are presented for continued prosecution.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9 had been allowed.

New claims 14 and 15 should be allowable as well, because they ultimately depend on independent claim 1.

C. The Office Action

Prosecution on the merits had been closed in accordance with *Ex parte Quayle*, since the application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters.

The Examiner objected to page 2 of the specification for referring to cancelled claim 11. Applicants have amended page 2 as correction.

Claims 5 and 8 had been objected to for being improper multiple dependent claims. As correction, claims 3 and 8 have been amended to depend on claim 1, and claim 5 has been amended to depend on claim 3. New dependent claims 14 and 15 have been added as a result.

D. Fees

This Response is being filed within the shortened statutory period for reply. No fee is believed to be due. If, on the other hand, it is determined that fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to Deposit Account No. 02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

E. Conclusion

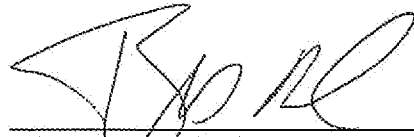
In view of the actions taken and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that each and every one of the matters raised by the Examiner has been addressed by the present amendment and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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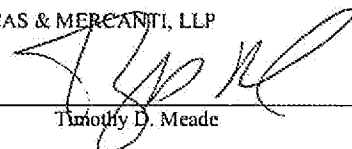
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